

09/973, 389. AEG 5/29/07

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Atty. Docket No. 8667-61

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have other alternative shapes, for example the quad-hole shapes disclosed in the referenced U.S. Patent No. 3,905,712, among other shapes suitable for connecting lugs thereto, as is known.

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Page 7, lines 1-23 were amended as follows:

The resilient arm 110 generally biases the locking pin 120 to protrude through the locking pin opening 56 of the beam flange 50 and at least partially into an opening 22 of the post 20 aligned at least partially with the locking pin opening 56 when the beam member 30 is connected to the post 20. Thus assembled, the locking pin 120 is engageable with [an] a portion or surface 26 of the upper portion [26] 21 of the post opening 22 into which it protrudes to prevent the beam member 30 from being raised or lifted relative to the post, as is otherwise required to align and withdraw the enlarged head 42 of the lug 40 through the enlarged upper portion 21 of the post opening 22. The locking pin 120 thereby locks the beam member 30 to the post 20. FIG. 1 also illustrates partially and in phantom lines the resilient arm 110 flexible away from the outer side 54 of the beam flange 50 to a limited extent for assembly and withdrawal of the locking pin 120 relative to the locking pin opening 56 of the beam [member] flange 50, as discussed below.

In FIG. 1, a locking flange 130 is coupled to the second end portion 124 of the locking pin 120 and extends generally radially therefrom. When the beam member 30 is connected to the post 20, as discussed above, the locking flange 130 extends generally adjacent the inner side 52 of the beam flange 50 and is engageable therewith to inhibit withdrawal of the locking pin 120 from the locking pin opening 56, thereby securing the locking pin 120 in the post opening 22 aligned with the locking pin opening 56 of the beam flange 50. The locking flange 130 also limits flexing of the resilient arm 110 thereby preventing over-flexing thereof to an extent that may cause damage thereto. [and prevent the bias] Damage to the

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resilient arm from over-flexing thereof may prevent proper biasing of the locking pin 120 into the locking pin opening 56 of the beam flange 50, as is problematic with prior art latches.

Page 10, lines ~~5-7~~ ¹²⁻¹⁸ were amended as follows: Aeg 5/29/07

FIG. 1 also illustrates the locking flange 130 extending, or angled, slightly toward the resilient arm 110 and thus toward inner side 52 of the beam flange 50, thereby improving engagement of the tooth 132 with the tooth recess 58. The extent, if any, to which the locking flange 130 is angled toward the resilient arm 110 may depend generally on the thickness of the beam flange [30] and the post 20, the size of the tooth 132, the axial length of the locking pin 120 and the alignment thereof, and may be determined by those of ordinary skill in the art without undue experimentation in view of the disclosure herein.

Page 12, lines ~~6-13~~ ¹⁵⁻²² were amended as follows: - Aeg 5/29/07

In FIG. 8, the beam flange 51 has first and second openings 151 and 153 therethrough. Each opening 151 and 153 has an aperture portion 154 and a slot portion 156 formed in a slot recess 158 on the inner side [52] of the beam flange 51, as discussed generally above. Unlike the embodiment of FIG. 3, however, the openings 151 and 153 in FIG. 8 are disposed asymmetrically on the beam flange 51. More particularly, the slot portion 156 of the first opening 151 is adjacent the aperture portion 154 of the other opening 153. The alternative beam flange 51 is thus asymmetric, and separate right and left handed configurations thereof are required for mounting on opposing end portions of the beam member.

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Page 12, lines ~~18~~ - page 13, line ~~1~~ was amended as follows:

In the latch 102 of FIG. 7, the locking flange comprises first and second lobes 135 and 136 extending generally radially from opposing side portions of the locking pin 120. In FIG. 6, during assembly of the beam member 30 with the post 20, the resilient arm 110 is flexed initially away from the outer side 54 of the beam flange 51 [50], as discussed above. The locking flange 130 and more particularly the first and second lobes 135 and 136 thereof are thus disposed in the slot portion 158 of the opening 151 through which the locking pin 120 is disposed when the resilient arm 110 is flexed outwardly to permit insertion of the headed lugs into corresponding post openings. As the beam member 30 is subsequently lowered relative to the post 20 to seat the headed lugs in the corresponding post openings, the locking pin 120 is positioned eventually in alignment with another post opening 22 whereupon the resilient arm 110 biases the locking pin 120 into the post opening 22 aligned therewith to lockingly connect the beam member 30 to the post 20, as discussed above.

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Page 13, lines ~~2-8~~ were amended as follows:

To fasten the latch 102 of FIGS. 6 and 7 to the beam flange 51 of FIG. 8, the legs 140 are disposed into the aperture portion 154 of the second opening 153 from the outer side 54 of the beam flange 51 [~~member 50~~], as discussed generally above. And as the legs 140 of the latch 102 are slidably disposed along the slot portion 156 of the opening 153, the locking pin 120 and flange 130 are eventually positioned to pass through the aperture portion 154 of the opening 151 under the bias of the resilient arm 110. Thus assembled, the beam member 30 and latch 102 may be lockingly connected to a post 20, as discussed above.

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MARKED-UP CLAIMS AMENDMENTS

In the Specification:

The following paragraph was inserted on Page 1, before the Background:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application is a continuation of commonly assigned and co-pending U.S. Application No. 09/693,045 filed on 20 October 2000, now U.S. Patent No. _____, which is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 09/300,923 filed on 28 April 1999, also entitled "Storage Rack System And Locking Latch Therefor", now abandoned, from which priority under 35 U.S.C. §120 is hereby claimed.

~~Page 24, line 24~~ ²⁶ page 5, line ^{AEG 5/09/07} 4 was amended as follows:

FIG. 2 illustrates the post 20 having the plurality of openings 22 arranged generally in a row thereon for accommodating one or more headed lugs protruding from the beam member 30, whereby the beam member may be adjustably connected to the post as is known. [The] In FIG. 1, the post openings 22 have generally an enlarged upper portion 21 that permits passage of the enlarged head of the lug, and a smaller lower portion 23 that supports the lug but prevents passage of the enlarged head. In exemplary embodiment of FIG. 2, the post openings 22 are generally slanted keyhole type openings, but the post openings 22 may